Government of India is also in touch with the State Government of Madhya Pradesh in the matter.

Interest on the funds for Bhopal gas tragedy

3358. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have Rs. 470 crore towards compensation and rehabilitation of Bhopal Gas disaster victims;

(b) how much interest Government earn annually from this capital fund;

(c) whether Government spent the interest amount on the welfare and rehabilitation of victims of the gas tragedy;

(d) what is the total amount disbursed by Government, as on date, to the victims; and

(e) how many claims have been settled as on 31st March, 2002 and how many claims are still pending with Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) As per the order of Hon'ble Supreme Court, the Union Carbide Corporation paid a sum of US $ 470 million to the Union of India as compensation in full settlement of all civil claims, rights and liabilities related to and arising out of Bhopal Gas Leak Disaster. According to the directions of the Supreme Court, this money can be used only for paying compensation to the gas victims. This amount is deposited in RBI in the name of Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, Bhopal.

(b) According to Reserve Bank of India, Government earned Rs. 54,01,12,704/- towards the investment made in various securities pertaining to Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, Bhopal during the financial year 01.04.2001 to 31.03.2002.

(c) and (d) According to information received from the office of the Welfare Commissioner, the amount of interest earned on the deposits is also being consumed in the payment of compensation to the gas victims. As on 31.03.2002, Rs. 1522.36 crore have been awarded as compensation out of which Rs. 1511.51 crore have been disbursed to the gas victims.

(e) In all, 10,29,431 cases were filed by the claimants, out of which 10,29,254 cases have been disposed of by the end of 31st March 2002 leaving a balance of only 177 cases for disposal. Besides, under the orders of the Hon'ble

Supreme Court dated 2.3.2001, in the claim cases which were dismissed in default or due to non-appearance, the claimants were given an opportunity to file applications for restoration of their cases. As a result, 42,053 claimants filed restoration applications. Out of restored cases, 37,963 cases have been disposed of leaving a balance of 4,090 cases for disposal. In addition, some appeals and revision petitions are also pending.

Disposal of cases of Bhopal gas tragedy

3359. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) by when all the cases of Bhopal gas tragedy would be settled;

(b) by when the office of the Welfare Commissioner would be dismantled;

(c) whether it is a fact that more money is spent on the office of the Welfare Commissioner than that on the compensation amount;

(d) the total amount of money available with Government, as on date, for relief and rehabilitation of gas victims of Bhopal; and

(e) how that money would be used?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SATYA BRATA MOOKHERJEE): (a) According to information received from the office of the Welfare Commissioner, the original cases are likely to be disposed of by the end of June, 2002. However, appeals and revision petitions are likely to be disposed of within 2 years.

(b) Decision about dismantling of the office of the Welfare Commissioner will be taken after all the claim cases are disposed of.

(c) No, Sir. According to information sent by the office of the Welfare Commissioner, Rs. 1522.36 crore has been awarded as compensation upto 31.3.2002 whereas the expenditure on the office of the Welfare Commissioner, Bhopal Gas Victims, Bhopal is only Rs. 46.01 crore upto 31.3.2002.

(d) and (e) According to information given by the Reserve Bank of India, a sum of Rs. 475.76 crore is the balance in dollar component as on 26.3.2002. This amount, in accordance with the order of the Supreme Court is earmarked for payment of compensation only. For the medical, social, economic and environmental rehabilitation of Bhopal gas victims, the Central Government had approved a five year Action Plan in 1990 with a total outlay of Rs. 163.10 crore which was increased in stages to Rs. 258 crore. This outlay was to be